

AIRC ALERT

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Highlight Documents | 1 |
| U.S.-Pakistan Relations | 2 |
| Democracy and Global Issues | 2 |
| International Security | 5 |
| Economic Security and Trade | 7 |
| U.S. Society and Values | 8 |

What's New

Democracy Video Challenge

<http://www.videochallenge.america.gov/index.html>

The Democracy Video Challenge, a public-private partnership, engages youth in an online discussion on democracy through the creation of short videos completing the phrase, "Democracy Is....." and through social networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter. The U.S. Department of State and its partners will launch the second annual Democracy Video Challenge online and at the UN on International Democracy Day.

HIGHLIGHT DOCUMENTS

5-1/H

CLIMATE CHANGE PERSPECTIVES

eJournal USA, Department of State, Volume 14 / Number 9, September 2009

This eJournal USA offers perspectives of experts and activists in several key countries on effective policies to curb greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate global warming and adapt to irreversible changes, and features an introduction by U.S. special envoy Todd Stern. "We have reached a pivotal moment in the climate challenge, and what we decide to do now will have a profound and lasting impact on our nation and our planet," writes U.S. special envoy for climate change Todd Stern in his introductory article.

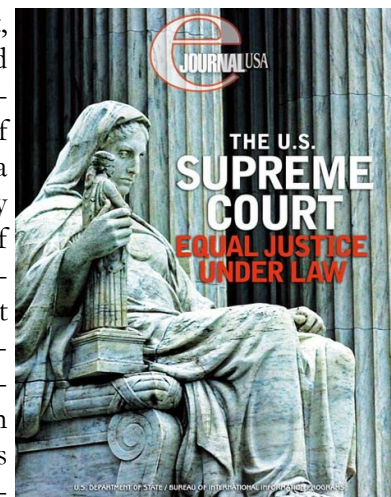


5-2/H

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT: Equal Justice Under Law

eJournal USA, Department of State, Volume 14 / Number 10, October 2009

As an institution, the Supreme Court commands respect, legitimacy, and prestige both in the United States and abroad. The October 2009 edition of eJournal USA describes many aspects of the U.S. Supreme Court. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Solicitor General Elena Kagan present their introductions and contributions by legal scholars and journalists focus on the elements of judicial decision making and independence of the justices. Four Court officials and a former Supreme Court law clerk also describe their jobs. This edition of eJournal USA focuses on how the High Court functions. Implicit in each essay is an understanding that the way in which the Supreme Court conducts its affairs adds to its legitimacy, to its prestige at home and abroad, to its stature as guarantor of the rule of law. The essays in the journal explain how the Court functions. They also illustrate how it commands the respect of Americans and plays a vital role in the constitutional system.



U.S.— PAKISTAN RELATIONS

5-3/UP

AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN RECONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITY ZONES (ROZS), H.R. 1318/H.R. 1886/H.R. 2410 AND S. 496: ISSUES AND ARGUMENTS

By Mary Jane Bolle, Specialist in International Trade and Finance

Congressional Research Service, October 15, 2009.

The Afghanistan-Pakistan Security and Prosperity Enhancement Act (H.R. 1318, Van Hollen) and the Afghanistan and Pakistan Reconstruction Opportunity Zones Act (S. 496, Cantwell) would establish a unilateral U.S. trade preference program for Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan. The legislation would permit certain goods produced in designated geographic areas called Reconstruction Opportunity Zones (ROZs) to be imported into the United States duty-free. ROZs would be a specific type of export processing zone, and thus part of a world-wide network of free trade zones. Free trade zones are typically fenced-in industrial parks. As such they are self-contained islands of infrastructure necessary to support manufacturing, often located in relatively undeveloped geographic locations. They support economic development by facilitating cooperative production among workers in more than one country. That is, they are physically located inside the boundaries of a country but are treated as if they were located outside the country for customs purposes. Thus, for components or materials which are imported into ROZs, processed into finished goods, and later exported from the country, no tariffs would be payable and customs procedures would be streamlined. The ROZ program would offer additional tariff benefits to Afghanistan and Pakistan. In turn, it would place additional requirements on both countries.

5-4/UP

AS OBAMA GEARS UP IN AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN FACES LEADERSHIP VOID

By Ahmed Rashid

New Perspectives Quarterly, Vol. 26, No. 2, Spring 2009, pp. 25-27.

President Barack Obama pledged in his first TV interview with the Arab satellite channel Al Arabiya that America under his watch would "listen with respect and not dictate" to the world. Secretary of State Hillary

Clinton has further announced that this country will no longer just throw around its military might but will pursue a "smart power" approach by tempering the use of hard weaponry with the "soft power" of persuasion and cultural attraction. Or, as Madame Secretary's husband Bill has put it, America will now lead through the power of example instead of the example of power. The first exceedingly complex test of Obama's smart power strategy will be how to end George W. Bush's misguided "war on terror" in Afghanistan and Pakistan, keeping al-Qaida at bay without being swallowed by the quagmire of tribal politics. An array of experts from New Delhi to Paris offers their views in this section.

5-5/UP

PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Proliferation and Security

By Paul Kerr and Mary Beth Nikitin, Analysts in Nonproliferation

Congressional Research Service, October 15, 2009.

Instability in Pakistan has called the extent and durability of these reforms into question. Some observers fear radical takeover of a government that possesses a nuclear bomb, or proliferation by radical sympathizers within Pakistan's nuclear complex in case of a breakdown of controls. While U.S. and Pakistani officials continue to express confidence in controls over Pakistan's nuclear weapons, continued instability in the country could impact these safeguards.

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

5-6/DGI

2009 REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

U.S. Department of State. October 26, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/index.htm>

The International Religious Freedom report is submitted to Congress annually by the Department of State in compliance with Section 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998. The report supplements the most recent Human Rights Reports by providing additional detailed information with respect to matters involving international religious freedom. It includes individual country chapters on the status of religious freedom worldwide.

5-7/DGI

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD

By Ian Woofenden

Home Power, No. 133, October/November 2009, pp. 80-85.

The author, a wind-energy consultant and Costa Rica coordinator for Solar Energy International, writes that, properly executed, renewable-energy technologies in the developing world can provide for sustainability and a higher quality of life, and enable developing-world communities to “avoid some of the poor development choices we in the ‘prematurely developed’ world have made.” Woofenden explores technologies that work best in many countries, such as solar cooking, which reduces the pressure on natural resources and time and effort spent gathering firewood; solar electricity, which can reliably power lights, schools and medical clinics without having to purchase candles or kerosene; methane biodigesters, for the microbial breakdown of manure into cooking gas; hydroelectricity, making use of running stream water to generate power; and solar water heating and purification. He writes that his own field, wind energy, is not always the best technology to use in many rural locations in developing countries, due to the lack of suitable sites and the greater need for regular maintenance and repair. The article includes online and print resources for further information.

5-8/DGI

BIOTECH'S PLANS TO SUSTAIN AGRICULTURE

Scientific American magazine, October 2009.

Popular sentiment may call for more organic methods, but the agricultural industry sees biotechnology as a crucial part of farming's future. By 2050 or so, agriculture will need to produce about 50 percent more food than it now does because of the expanding population. Traditional crops and farming methods could not sustain that much productivity. In this panel discussion, representatives from the agricultural industry defend genetically modified crops as one of several tools that should be used to help farmers in developing countries become more productive.

5-9/DGI

BOOSTING VACCINES: The Power of Adjuvants

By Nathalie Garçon and others

Scientific American, October 2009.

Modern insights into the immune system have sparked interest in adding ingredients that can supercharge old vaccines and make entirely new ones possible. Vaccines are extremely effective at preventing disease, but they could work better for more people and against a wider variety of illnesses. Advances in immunology have revealed how new classes of adjuvants -- ingredients that stimulate immune responses to vaccines -- can allow vaccine designers to target specific populations and pathogens.

5-10/DGI

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM ADAPTS TO OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES

By Beth McMurtrie

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 9, October 23, 2009, pp. A29-A32.

The Obama Administration is putting its own stamp on the Fulbright Program, the U.S. Government's flagship international exchange. In the lead article, Beth McMurtrie describes the new priorities based on her interview with Alina L. Romanowski, the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for academic programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Among the new priorities: studies of such global issues as food security and climate change through the Fulbright Science and Technology award; the increased participation of U.S. community colleges; and the kind of cultural diplomacy represented by the Fulbright Fellowships. Three profiles of Fulbright programs follow. In the first, McMurtrie looks at the role U.S. community colleges may play in Russia if a high-level visit to Moscow by a group of community college administrators in Spring 2010 develops as planned. In the second profile, Shailaja Neelakantan looks at the Fulbright program in India, which has doubled this year. In the third profile, Karin Fischer describes how a university in California has taken advantage of an underutilized Fulbright program that covers scholars' travel costs when they conduct guest lectures.

5-11/DGI

THE NEW ENERGY BEAT

By Curtis Brainard and others.

**Columbia Journalism Review, September/
October 2009.**

Climate change and energy issue reporting behooves journalists to collaborate within the newsroom and with news outlets to deepen expertise and resources to better explain these critical, complex topics. Varied regional concerns and new technologies increase the need for a broad knowledge base that allows for delving beyond the pronouncements of politicians or industry lobbyists. Covering energy well means giving a comprehensive “big picture” that can both inform and influence the public and policy makers.

5-12/DGI

SEEKING SOFT-POWER, BUT NOT BY THE BOOK

By Jonathan Fenby

YaleGlobal, October 26, 2009.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/seeking-soft-power-not-book>

China’s participation as the guest of honor at the recent Frankfurt Book Fair was filled with plenty of histrionics: walk-outs, gag orders, and a firing. There were, however, over 2000 copyright deals inked with various Chinese publishers. But beyond the sensational, the event shows China’s uneasy practice of soft power, according to author Jonathan Fenby. Beijing is striving to present itself to the world not just as a manufacturing hub, but also as a country rich in the domain of ideas, art, and culture. This endeavor includes, among other things, participation in the Frankfurt Book Fair as well as allowing the publication of seedier fare on Chinese life that would have been unheard of even a decade ago.

5-13/DGI

GLOBAL CORRUPTION REPORT 2009: Corruption and Private Sector

Transparency International, September 2009.

<http://www.transparency.org/publications/gcr>

The private sector plays a pivotal role in fighting corruption worldwide, says the report. It documents in detail the many corruption risks for businesses, ranging from small entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa to multinationals from Europe and North America. More

than 75 experts examine the scale, scope and devastating consequences of a wide range of corruption issues.

5-14/DGI

INVESTING IN CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

By Frederic Sampson and others.

U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, October 28, 2009.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001852/185202E.pdf>

Drawing on experts, thinkers, practitioners and decision-makers, the report emphasizes the importance of integrating the diversity of learners’ needs into educational practices. The education section of the report acknowledges that ‘a one size fits all’ approach to education does not serve learners’ needs and can create huge gaps between what pupils learn and how they live. It also includes an examination of the cultural relevance of educational methods and contents; learning societies and the right to education; and participatory learning and intercultural competencies.

5-15/DGI

PAKISTAN’S EDUCATION SYSTEM AND LINKS TO EXTREMISM

By Jayshree Bajoria

Council on Foreign Relations, October 7, 2009.

Pakistan's poor education system has increasingly become a matter of international concern. Lack of access to quality education, which in turn limits economic opportunity, makes young Pakistanis targets for extremist groups, some experts say. The World Bank says nearly half the adult population of Pakistan can't read, and net primary enrollment rates remain the lowest in South Asia. Experts say the system suffers from inadequate government investment, corruption, lack of institutional capacity, and a poor curriculum that often incites intolerance. In August 2009, chief counterterrorism adviser to the White House John Brennan, summing up a concern held by many U.S. terrorism experts, said extremist groups in Pakistan have exploited this weakness. "It is why they offer free education to impoverished Pakistani children, where they can recruit and indoctrinate the next generation," he said. There have been some efforts by the Pakistani government, Western governments, and the World Bank to reform the system, but serious challenges remain. The report says education reform is an essential element in stabilizing the country.

5-16/DGI

A PLAN TO POWER 100 PERCENT OF THE PLANET WITH RENEWABLES

By Mark Jacobson and others.

Scientific American, November 2009.

Wind, water and solar technologies can provide 100 percent of the world's energy, eliminating all fossil fuels. Supplies of wind and solar energy on accessible land dwarf the energy consumed by people around the globe. The authors' plan calls for 3.8 million large wind turbines, 90,000 solar plants, and numerous geothermal, tidal and rooftop photovoltaic installations worldwide. The cost of generating and transmitting power would be less than the projected cost per kilowatt-hour for fossil-fuel and nuclear power. Shortages of a few specialty materials, along with lack of political will, loom as the greatest obstacles.

5-17/DGI

TAKE A STAND: How Journalism Can Regain Its Relevance

By Cunningham, Brent

Columbia Journalism Review, September/October 2009.

Journalism in America has been damaged by its abdication of an adversarial role in public discourse. Instead, it "mostly amplifies the agendas of others—the prominent and powerful," maintains the author. He examines the changing dynamic of the news media and questions whether it has the ability to moderate public conversation and introduce new angles and ideas on national issues. Calling press objectivity "a trap" that lessens journalism's beneficial impact, he says the press needs to be on the side of the people and become a platform for establishing a public agenda.

5-18/DGI

THE WOMEN'S CRUSADE

By Nicholas Kristof

New York Times Magazine, August 23, 2009, pp. 28-39.

In many parts of the world, women are routinely beaten, raped or sold into prostitution; they are denied access to medical care and education, and have little or no economic and political power. Changing that could change everything, write the authors, saying that "the oppression of women worldwide is the human rights cause of our time." Their liberation could help solve

many of the world's problems, from poverty to child mortality to terrorism. The United Nations has estimated that there are five thousand honor killings a year, the majority in the Muslim world, while one percent of the world's landowners are women. Still, they note that things are changing; educating girls and empowering women can help fight power and extremism. For example, in Egypt, 98% of people say they believe that "girls have the same right to education as boys." This is one of a series of articles in a special issue of the magazine entitled *Saving The World's Women*.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

5-19/IS

IN AFGHANISTAN, TRAINING UP IS HARD TO DO

By Sydney Freedberg

National Journal, October, 23, 2009.

In an article profiling the commander of the 4th Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, the author notes that training Afghan soldiers will require more American advisors and troops, in order to reverse the years of underinvestment in security in Afghanistan after 2003. Freedberg writes that Afghanistan became an afterthought, with most of the attention on Iraq; as a result, the situation in Afghanistan today is probably worse than it was in Iraq several years ago. As U.S. experience in Iraq has shown, it is difficult to separate the advisory role from the fighting; American troops are necessary to serve alongside the Afghans in order to reduce the threat to a level where the Afghans can handle it on their own.

BOOM BOX USA: Surrogate Broadcasting as a Tool of U.S. Soft Power

By Jeffrey Gedmin

(Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 5, September-October 2009)

According to Gedmin, president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, U.S. government-sponsored surrogate broadcasting of accurate and reliable news remains the most effective and cost-efficient way to promote democracy and advance U.S. security interests in countries lacking independent media. The objective of surrogate broadcasting programs, such as

Radio Farda in Iran, is not to overthrow a foreign government -- "when informed citizens are free to choose," Gedmin writes, "they invariably choose freedom over tyranny and prefer decent, accountable government to the arbitrary whims of authoritarian leaders." Surrogate broadcasting plays a role in Afghanistan, countering the Taliban's own information war, and in Russia, where public opinion toward the U.S. and toward democracy is ambivalent.

5-20/IS

THE NPT: Accessing The Past, Building The Future

By Lewis A. Dunn

Nonproliferation Review, vol. 16, no. 2, July 2009, pp. 143-172.

This article provides an analysis of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty's (NPT) successes and failures to date. The author, who works as a senior vice-president for Science Applications International Corporation, also examines the prospects for the upcoming May 2010 NPT Review Conference. Ambassador Dunn suggests 15 possible steps to strengthen the treaty. He recommends pursuing three plans of action to establish a roadmap between the 2010 meeting and the next review conference in five years. The first plan would be organized around non-proliferation goals. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy would be the focus of the second plan. The last one would explore the broader ramifications of nuclear disarmament.

5-21/IS

PAKISTAN: Countering Militancy in FATA
International Crisis Group, October 21, 2009.

The military operation in South Waziristan is unlikely to succeed in curbing the spread of religious militancy in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), unless the Pakistan government implements political reforms in that part of the country. Pakistani Taliban groups have gained significant power in the tribal agencies, seven administrative districts bordering on Afghanistan. While state institutions in FATA are increasingly dysfunctional, the militants have dismantled or assumed control of an already fragile tribal structure. This encroaching Talibanisation is not the product of tribal traditions or resistance. It is the result of short-sighted military policies and a colonial-era body of law that isolates the region from the rest of the country, giving it an ambiguous constitutional status and denying political freedoms and economic oppor-

tunity to the population. While the militants' hold over FATA can be broken, the longer the state delays implementing political, administrative, judicial and economic reforms, the more difficult it will be to stabilise the region.

5-22/IS

PAKISTAN'S NEW GENERATION OF TERRORISTS

By Jayshree Bajoria

Council on Foreign Relations, October 26, 2009.

According to the backgrounder, Pakistan has emerged as a terrorist sanctuary for some of the world's most violent groups, including al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and homegrown militants, that threaten the stability of Pakistan as well as the region.

5-23/IS

PAKISTAN: Protect People First

By Kristele Younes and Patrick Duplat

Refugees International, October 26, 2009.

http://www.refugeesinternational.org/sites/default/files/102609_PAK_protect.pdf

Pakistan is facing a complex humanitarian crisis. Recent military offensives against militant groups have displaced several million civilians and left thousands dead. While many have returned home, the new offensive in South Waziristan is currently displacing hundreds of thousands more. The UN's activities are limited by both the insecure environment and restrictions by the government of Pakistan, but it must do a better job at adopting a principled approach to humanitarian assistance. As for the U.S., if it wants to help stabilize Pakistan, it needs to insist that the government prioritize the protection of civilians, says the report.

5-24/IS

PROMOTING CROSS-LOC TRADE IN KASHMIR

By Moeed Yusuf

United States Institute of Peace, September 2009.

The recent formation of the Federation of Jammu and Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry has the potential to play a promising role in future efforts to reduce tensions between India and Pakistan over the disputed territory of Kashmir. This report provides in-depth analysis of the fledgling entity and a concrete illustration of the opportunities and challenges of the way forward.

5-25/IS**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION: GETTING BACK TO BASICS****By Michael G. Mullen****Joint Force Quarterly, No. 55, Fourth Quarter 2009, pp. 2-4.**

Adm. Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, writes that in the world of communication, “the lines between strategic, operational, and tactical are blurred beyond distinction . . . we have walked away from the original intent.” He notes that our biggest problem is credibility, because the U.S. has not invested the time and resources to build trust or deliver on promises. In Afghanistan, the Taliban have become effective at governance, and in doing so, they erode the legitimacy of the Afghan government. He says that strategic communication problems are really “policy and execution problems -- Each time we fail to live up to our values or don't follow up on a promise, we look more and more like the arrogant Americans the enemy claims we are.” The irony, says Mullen, is that we know better, and have only to look at our past – the post-World War II Marshall Plan did not need a “strat comm” plan or public opinion poll to rebuild Europe. Mullen is an avowed fan of Greg Mortenson, the author of *Three Cups of Tea*, who has built schools for girls in the Panjshir Valley of Pakistan. Mullen writes that we “must also be better listeners -- the Muslim community is a world we don't fully -- and don't always attempt to – understand.”

5-26/IS**TERRAIN, TRIBES, AND TERRORISTS: Pakistan, 2006-2008****By David J. Kilcullen****The Brookings Institution, September 10, 2009.**

The two main factors for you will be the terrain and the tribes. You have to know their game and learn to play it, which means you first have to understand their environment. In the field, with military and civilian teams and local people in locations across Afghanistan and Pakistan at various times through the next three years, this wisdom's insight came home to me again and again. The fact is that the terrain and the tribes drive ninety percent of what happens on the Frontier, while the third factor, which accounts for the other ten percent, is the presence of transnational terrorists and our reaction to them.

5-27/ES**AN AMERICAN LOST DECADE?****International Economy, Summer 2009, pp. 6-22.**

Is America headed for a 1990s Japanese-style “lost decade” of economic stagnation? In this symposium of views, thirty experts, ranging from economists, journalists, academics and businessmen weigh in. The consensus among most of the group is that the U.S. government acted decisively and quickly, whereas the Japanese government dallied for much longer before taking action. The American and European experts interviewed generally express a more positive view of the U.S. prospects than the Japanese, one of whom states that the U.S. is in for “more than one lost decade.”

5-28/ES**CAPITALISM AFTER THE CRISIS****By Luigi Zingales****National Affairs, No. 1, Fall 2009, pp. 22-35.**

Zingales, professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, writes that the nature of the financial crisis, and the government's response to it, threatens to undermine America's unique brand of capitalism, and move the country in the direction of state corporatism. Unlike much of the rest of the West, democracy in America predates industrialization, so by the latter half of the nineteenth century, the American public had high expectations for fairness in economic policy; the concept of anti-trust law is a prime example. He notes that the pro-market aspects of American capitalism have been eclipsed by the pro-business forces, those that promote the interests of existing businesses. The financial sector's increasing concentration and political muscle, and the government bailouts for the major financial firms, threatens to start a vicious cycle. Zingales believes that the U.S. capitalism is at a crossroads. One path is to enact genuine reforms, even if they do not serve the interests of Wall Street, but he sees the current administration taking the other path, consisting of cosmetic measures like limits on executive bonuses, while shoring up the positions of the large financial firms, making the economy more dependent on government.

5-29/ES

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR A WORLD IN CRISIS

By Muhammad Yunus

World Policy Journal, Vol. 26, No. 2, Summer 2009, pp. 5-12.

Yunus, founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, notes that the optimism about global prosperity that prevailed at the beginning of the millennium has been soured by the financial collapse that began in 2008. He predicts that we are in the beginning stages of a long and painful period, in which the combined effects of the intertwined financial, food, energy and environmental crises will have a disproportionate effect on the world's poorest people. Capitalism is in crisis, says Yunus, because the basic purpose of the financial system and credit markets have been fundamentally distorted by the obsession with paper profits instead of serving human needs. He argues that capitalism is a "half-built structure" -- most efforts have been focused on the profit-making framework of the free-market system that was conceived by Adam Smith 250 years ago, yet we have paid little attention to Smith's equally-important writings on the moral dimension. Yunus believes that the current economic crisis offers an unparalleled opportunity to reintroduce the disregarded aspects of Adam Smith's message by developing what Yunus calls "social businesses", whose primary function is not to make profits, but to promote the public welfare.

5-30/ES

EUREKA MOMENTS: How A Luxury Item Became a Tool of Global Development **Economist, September 24, 2009.**

Mobile phones, now affordable to the vast majority of people around the world, have become the single most transformative tool for development, according to Jeffrey Sachs of the Columbia University's Earth Institute. In Africa, "mobile money" now means financial transactions can be carried out easily even in remote areas. Mobile phones play a huge role in micro businesses, which make up 50 to 60 percent of business globally, and as much as 90 percent in Africa. Small businesses can more efficiently negotiate with suppliers and reduce the overhead of running their small enterprises. There is also some evidence that mobile phones can be used to root out corruption; the article cites the example of an official in Pakistan overseeing land transfers, who randomly called the mobile num-

bers of buyers and sellers to find out if they had been asked to pay bribes.

5-31/ES

TRAFFICKING IN ORGANS, TISSUES AND CELLS AND TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REMOVAL OF ORGANS

United Nations and Council of Europe, October 13, 2009.

<http://www.coe.int/>

A new, binding international treaty is needed to prevent trafficking in organs, tissues and cells (OTC), protect victims and prosecute offenders in this exploitation of the deeply impoverished, according to a joint study by the United Nations and the Council of Europe. It calls for the prohibition of financial gain from the human body or its parts as the basis of all legislation on organ transplants, adding that organ donation should be promoted to increase availability, with preference given to OTC donation from the deceased.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

5-32/SV

AMERICA FALLING: Longtime Dominance In Education Erodes

By Karin Fischer

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 7, October 9, 2009, pp. A1, A21-A23.

The U.S. is still the top choice of international students; but by many measures, U.S. preeminence in education is eroding. As evidence of this erosion, Fischer cites the low percentage of Americans graduating with majors in engineering, the declining percentage of highly-qualified, low-income students who go to college and continuing rounds of budget cuts. Many who start doctoral programs fail to finish, especially women and minorities; more than half of the doctorates awarded by U.S. institutions went to foreign students. "I'm worried we won't realize what's at stake until it's too late," says Charles Vest, former president of MIT. The current economic and fiscal crisis has put U.S. public higher education in a more precarious situation because federal and state requirements have often put such programs as Medicaid and

elementary and secondary education off-limits for budget-cutting purposes, leaving higher education to take the brunt of the cuts, as in California. Some experts are calling for a larger federal role and long-term strategic planning; others are leery of an enlarged federal role and call instead for a national discussion of education. The U.S. system was never designed to educate most Americans, says Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education; “We’re still stuck on having the best high-education system of the 20th century, when it’s almost a decade into the 21st century.”

5-33/SV

FOX NEWS VIEWED AS MOST IDEOLOGICAL NETWORK

By Andrew Kohut and Michael Remez

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, October 29, 2009.

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/559.pdf>

The Fox News Channel is viewed by Americans in more ideological terms than other television news networks. And while the public is evenly divided in its view of hosts of cable news programs having strong political opinions, more Fox News viewers see this as a good thing than as a bad thing.

5-34/SV

ISLAMIC SCHOLARS PLAN FOR AMERICA'S FIRST MUSLIM COLLEGE

By Kathryn Masterson

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 5, September 25, 2009, pp. A1, A17-A20.

In fall 2010, Zaytuna College hopes to open in Berkeley, California as the first accredited Muslim college in the U.S. For the first time, Muslim college students will have the option of studying Islam in the U.S. from a mainstream Muslim tradition rather than from a secular perspective. The institute, founded in 1996 to promote understanding between different faiths and cultures, started a pilot seminary program in 2004 that graduated five students last year. Zaytuna's founders, Sheik Hamza Yusuf and Imam Zaid Shakir, see an urgent need to educate new leaders for the estimated 2,200 mosques and 500 Islamic elementary and secondary schools in the U.S. They also plan to operate their college at a level comparable to the best religious seminaries and general institutions of higher education, and will seek accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. They have been

raising money at house parties around the country, but still need another \$5 million to open the college on schedule in 2010. At the annual conference of the Islamic Society of North America this summer, the two drew enthusiastic SRO crowds and support. They pledged not to accept money from foreign governments but to do most of their fundraising in the U.S. If they do not meet their fund-raising goals, they plan to open anyway but on a smaller scale. “For us to really take our proper place in the mosaic of the country and make a contribution, we’re going to need to produce our own scholars,” Shakir said.

5-35/SV

THE LONG WAY HOME

By Paul Theroux

Smithsonian, Vol. 40, No. 6, September 2009, pp. 70-77.

Paul Theroux is one of the masters of travel writing, but he opens this article for Smithsonian admitting that he has never seen a great deal of his own country. He begins his cross-country road trip in Los Angeles, heading to his home in Cape Cod, Massachusetts with the plan that the journey is the destination. Along the way, he makes many of the iconic stops of the American road trip -- the Las Vegas strip, the Red Rocks of Arizona, the memorial to victims of the Oklahoma City terrorist attack, and the blues bars on Memphis' Beale Street. He finds barren deserts, ferocious weather, and pastoral scenes which he likens to similar places he has seen in distant countries. But at the end of his more than 5,400 kilometer journey, Theroux observes that he experienced “not a moment of alienation or danger, no roadblocks, no sign of officialdom, never a second of feeling I was somewhere different.”

5-36/SV

THE MOGULS' NEW CLOTHES

By Bruce Greenwald and others

Atlantic, October 2009.

Even before the Internet upended their industry, big media companies were turning in poor performances and disappointing their shareholders. The four tenets of media industry wisdom — growth, globalization, content and convergence -- are myths, these authors insist. Growth has actually resulted in lower stock performance, and globalization doesn't necessarily lead to higher profits. Creating superior content makes more money for the artists than for the media companies hosting their work. And finally, increased competition

from multiple media sources and the Internet undercut the advantage traditional big media companies had of economies of scale and captive customers. The only real avenue to salvation that the traditional media industry has open is unglamorous: improving the efficiency of their operations.

5-37/SV

OPEN COURSES: FREE, BUT OH, SO COSTLY

By Marc Parry

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 8, October 16, 2009, pp. A1, A16, A20.

This lead in a series of articles on the Open Courseware Movement focuses on the perils and prospects for a phenomenon that some believe could end college as we know it, but others believe is about to fail for lack of a business model. MIT, the leader in open courseware, now offers almost 2,000 free courses and has more than 1.3 million monthly visits to its website and a \$3.7 million annual budget. But each course costs \$10,000–\$15,000 to put together. With the foundations that have until now bankrolled open courseware projects reducing or eliminating their funding, MIT now envisions fund-raising. Students love the courses but want credit; critics worry that you can't give away a college education for free without undermining the institutions that charge hundreds of thousands of dollars for a degree. Utah State recently dropped its open courseware project after money from the state legislature and a foundation dried up. The biggest question looming on the horizon: Will Congress fund the Obama Administration's \$500 million proposal to build open courses online? In "Around the World, Varied Approaches to Open Online Learning," Simmi Aujla and Ben Terris look at efforts ranging from those in China and India to boost open courseware through government support to those in the United Kingdom to make online learning more truly collaborative and interactive.

5-38/SV

OUR EVANESCENT CULTURE AND THE AWESOME DUTY OF LIBRARIANS

By Richard Heinberg

Energy Bulletin, October 7, 2009.

How secure is our civilization's accumulated knowledge? Educator and author Heinberg notes that earlier civilizations over the millennia have disappeared, having given insufficient thought to how their socie-

ties' achievements would be preserved. Although the sheer volume of modern cultural materials is unprecedented, in many ways our modern heritage is uniquely vulnerable, and large swaths of it are at risk of being swept away at astonishing speed. The problem, notes Heinberg, is digitization — not just that storage formats become obsolete, but that the entire cultural enterprise depends on electricity: "digitization represents a huge bet on society's ability to keep the lights on forever." The real threats to modern information are systemic vulnerabilities, such as aging infrastructure and declining supplies of fossil fuels to power the electric grid. He says that the message is clear: don't let books die, and promote skills-based education to keep the practical and performing arts alive.

5-39/SV

PARKER PALMER: KNOW YOURSELF, CHANGE YOUR WORLD

By Sarah van Gelder

Yes! Magazine, Fall 2009.

In this interview, educator and author Parker Palmer notes that most of us lack an understanding of our inner lives; reflection, which should be the fourth "R" of education, is not taught in schools. Parker says that "every line of work is deepened by bringing all of our human capacities to bear on whatever we are doing, and that includes our inner sensibilities as well as our externally oriented knowledge and skill." Schools are often not a place that promotes personal development, a chief reason why fifty percent of teachers are gone within five years, due to burnout. Parker notes that people who become aware of their inner life also become aware of the disparity between their integrity and the manner in which institutions around them operate. He cites Wall Street and the financial crisis as a prime example of an environment in which few insiders were brave enough to speak out about what was happening. While the courage of individual whistle-blowers is important, real institutional change happens when groups of like-minded people come together and lend each other support. Institutions can seem like an unassailable colossus, says Parker, but "we can call them back to some semblance of humanity by reinventing them, because we invented them in the first place."

5-40/SV

TEACHING FOR A LIVING: How Teachers See the Profession Today

Public Agenda, October 19, 2009.

<http://www.publicagenda.org/pages/teaching-for-a-living>

Everyone agrees that you can't have good education without good teachers, but how do teachers see their profession? Why do people become teachers, what are their frustrations, and what reforms do they think would improve their work? The report is designed to learn more about how to support and retain the most promising teachers. It's a follow up on issues explored in the 2003 survey, *Stand by Me*, and our 2007 *Lessons Learned* reports on first-year teachers, as well as adding new questions to explore the differences between "Gen Y" educators and older teachers.

5-41/SV

WHAT IF?

By Steve Moyer

Humanities, Vol. 30, No. 4, July/August 2009, pp. 32-36.

The author believes that it is difficult to take in all the ways that reading is changing in response to new technology. Bob Stein, co-director and founder of the Institute for the Future of the Book, is exploring how the digital revolution is transforming the way we read. One of Stein's recent projects was a kind of online book club in which seven women engaged in a close reading of Doris Lessing's *THE GOLDEN NOTEBOOK*, then commented online in the margins of the electronic book, by means of an open-source software called CommentPress. Moyer explores the changes in the book in the past thirty years, noting that there have been more advances in the evolution of the book than there had been in the past five centuries.